



The
UNIVERSITY
of VERMONT

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION SENATE

THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT

RESOLUTION

Senate Resolution No.: RF09-007

Date Submitted: 11/03/2009

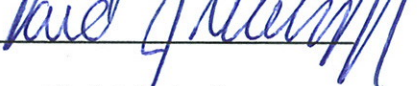
Date Introduced: 10/27/2009

Introduced By: Senator Stephen Hannaford
Academic Affairs Committee

Date Action Taken: 11/03/2009

Sponsored: 
Senator Hannaford

Certified: 
Speaker of the Senate Ellis

Sponsored: 
Chair Maciewicz

Signed: 
President Jones

Resolution Supporting LGBT Equality Across America

WHEREAS, the University of Vermont has committed to respect, integrity, innovation, openness, justice and responsibility in its *Common Ground*,

WHEREAS, the President's Commission on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Equity reported in its 2005 Analysis of the Campus Climate Survey that 54.5% of gay respondents, 51.3% of lesbian respondents and 31% of bisexual respondents experienced bias on the job at the University of Vermont, and 72.7% of transgender respondents experienced bias in a public space on campus,

WHEREAS, the Defense of Marriage Act currently restricts any federal recognition of same-sex marriage, and defines marriage exclusively as a union between one man and one woman,



WHEREAS, no federal law currently exists to protect LGBT people from real or perceived employment discrimination in the workplace,

WHEREAS, the U.S. military, through the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” Policy, currently bans the service of openly LGBT people from the Armed Services, and has dishonorably discharged thousands of critically needed personnel simply for being who they are,

WHEREAS, the landmark Civil Rights Acts of 1964 and 1968 currently exclude LGBT people from protections in areas of public accommodation,

WHEREAS, President Obama has publically stated his intention to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act and the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” Policy, in addition to expressing his support for the passage of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act to ban employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender or gender identity and expression,

WHEREAS, the State of Vermont is currently one of only six states to fully recognize same-sex marriage, as supported in Student Government Association resolution *RF 09-013*, yet Vermont’s same-sex marriages are not provided the same federal rights and responsibilities of opposite-sex marriage,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Student Government Association at the University of Vermont supports the immediate passage of H.R. 3017: The Employment Non-Discrimination Act of 2009, and S.1584 bearing the same name, H.R. 3567: The Respect for Marriage Act of 2009, which would repeal the Defense of Marriage Act, H.R. 1283: The Military Readiness Enhancement Act of 2009, which would repeal the “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell” Policy, and the extension of the Civil Rights Acts of 1964 and 1968 to cover LGBT people,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Student Government Association at the University of Vermont finds these legal changes to be an essential first step towards equality for all, and calls on Vermont Senators Leahy and Sanders and Representative Welch to immediately co-sponsor these bills, and vote for them if and when they come for a vote in Congress,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Student Government Association at the University of Vermont supports Equality Across America in general, and the chapter at the University of Vermont in particular, its “Week of Initiative” from November 1, 2009 to November 8, 2009, and activism on all levels to achieve equality for LGBT people.